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**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: <sup>066</sup>10/069,519  
Filing Date: 01/31/2002  
Applicant: Troy Walters et. al.  
Group Art Unit: 3732  
Examiner: Anuradha Ramana  
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MANIPULATING A  
FLEXIBLE STRAND AND SOFT TISSUE REPLACEMENT  
DURING SURGERY  
Attorney Docket: 5490-000269

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Director of The United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed 3/24/2004, please amend the application as follows and consider the remarks set forth below.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 14 of this paper.